

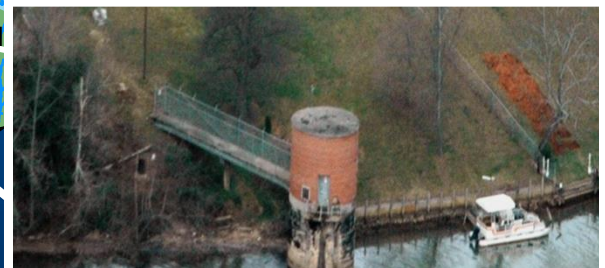
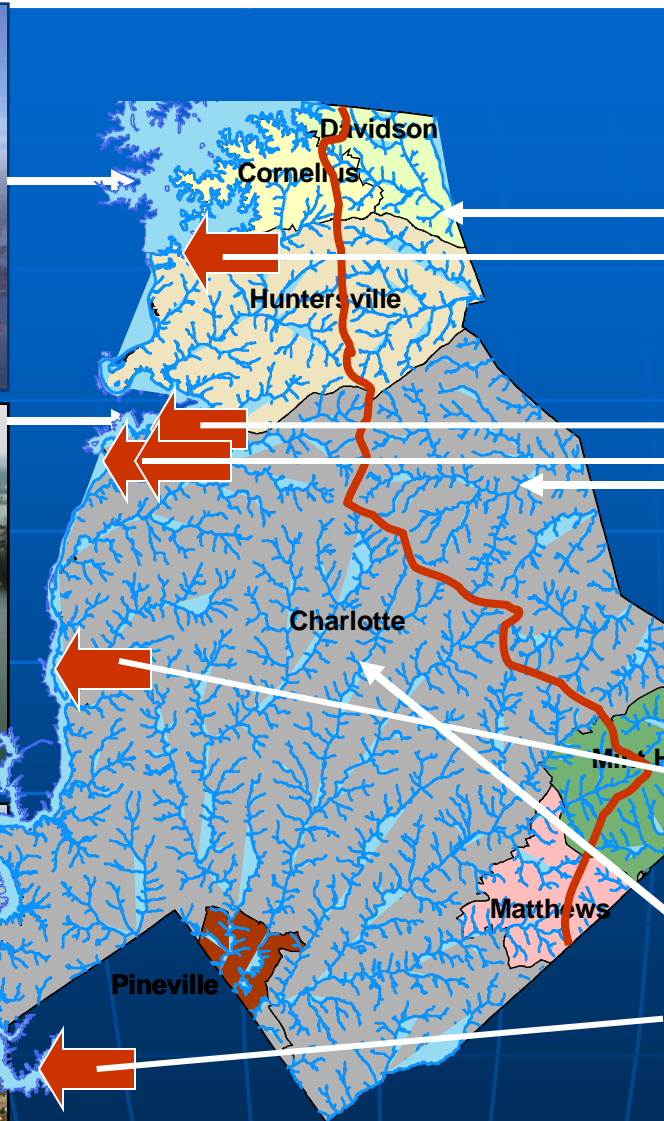
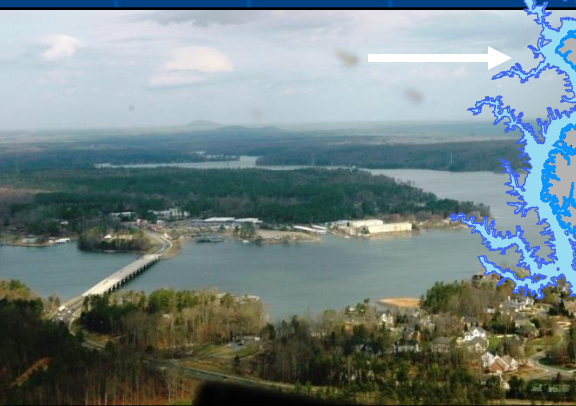
Waters of Mecklenburg - A Historical Perspective

They shaped our past, sustain us in the present and will dictate our future.



Mountain Island Lake - 1910

Waters of Mecklenburg



Our Most Precious Natural

Recreational Uses



- Over 10 million people visit the Catawba River annually.
- Visitation is projected to increase by about 11 percent per decade through 2050.



- The Mecklenburg County greenway system is quickly becoming one of the finest in the country.
- There are 33 miles of developed and 147 miles of undeveloped greenways in the County.

Other Lake Uses



- 50 percent of Duke Power's capacity for electric generation relies on the Catawba River.
- This includes hydro power at the dams and cooling water at the nuclear and coal fired plants.



- Latta Plantation Nature Preserve is located on 1,343 acres along Mountain Island Lake.
- This area preserves the habitat for 137 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians as well as 2 federally endangered species of plants.



Ladies fishing in Little Sugar Creek – circa 1890

**Maintaining good water
quality conditions in our
streams and lakes is
essential for maintaining
a livable community.**



Swimming hole in Long Creek – circa 1910



Kids wading in Little Sugar Creek – circa 2000

Historical Perspective

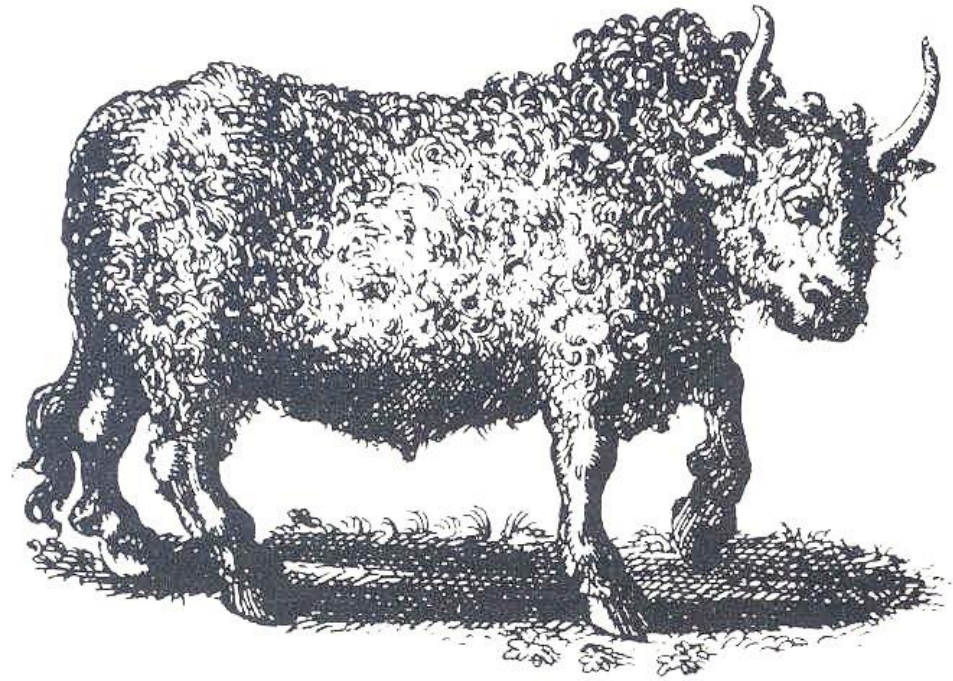
John Lawson, 1700

During his travels through Mecklenburg County in the early 1700s, John Lawson noted in his diary that the area was “abounding in many and delightful rivulets.”



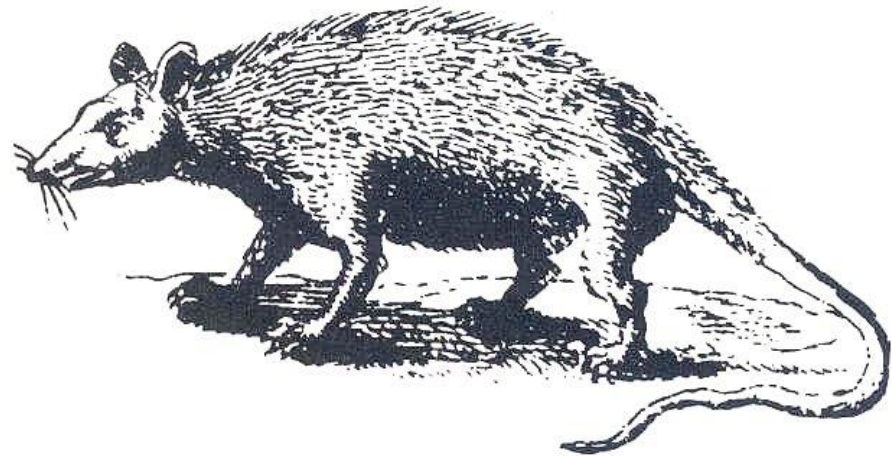
From the colonial journal of John Lawson

North Carolina Collection, UNC Library, Chapel Hill



Carolina Buffalo

Grunts like a hog...

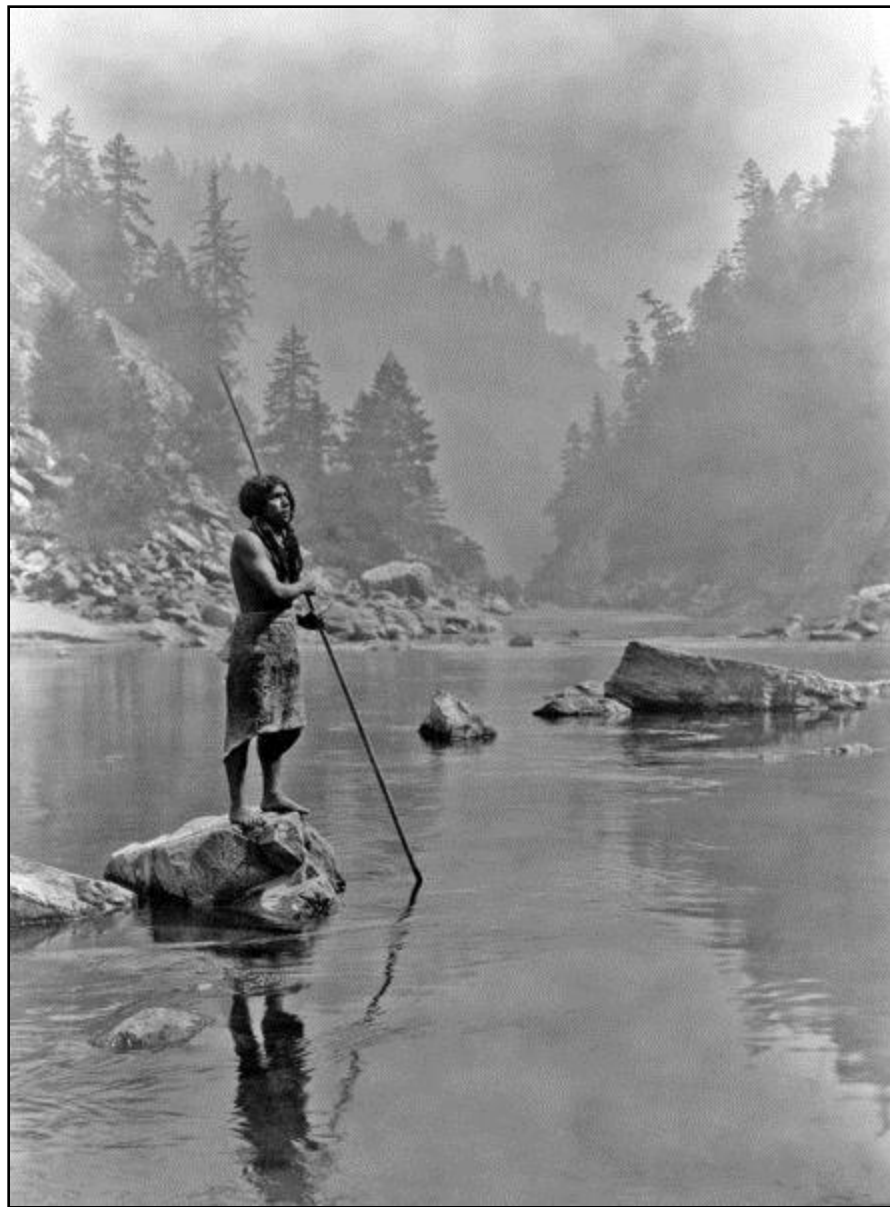


Opossum

The wonder of all land animals...



***Catawba...People
of the River***





Many early settlers were accomplished millwrights.

The Mill



Whitley Grist Mill on Long Creek

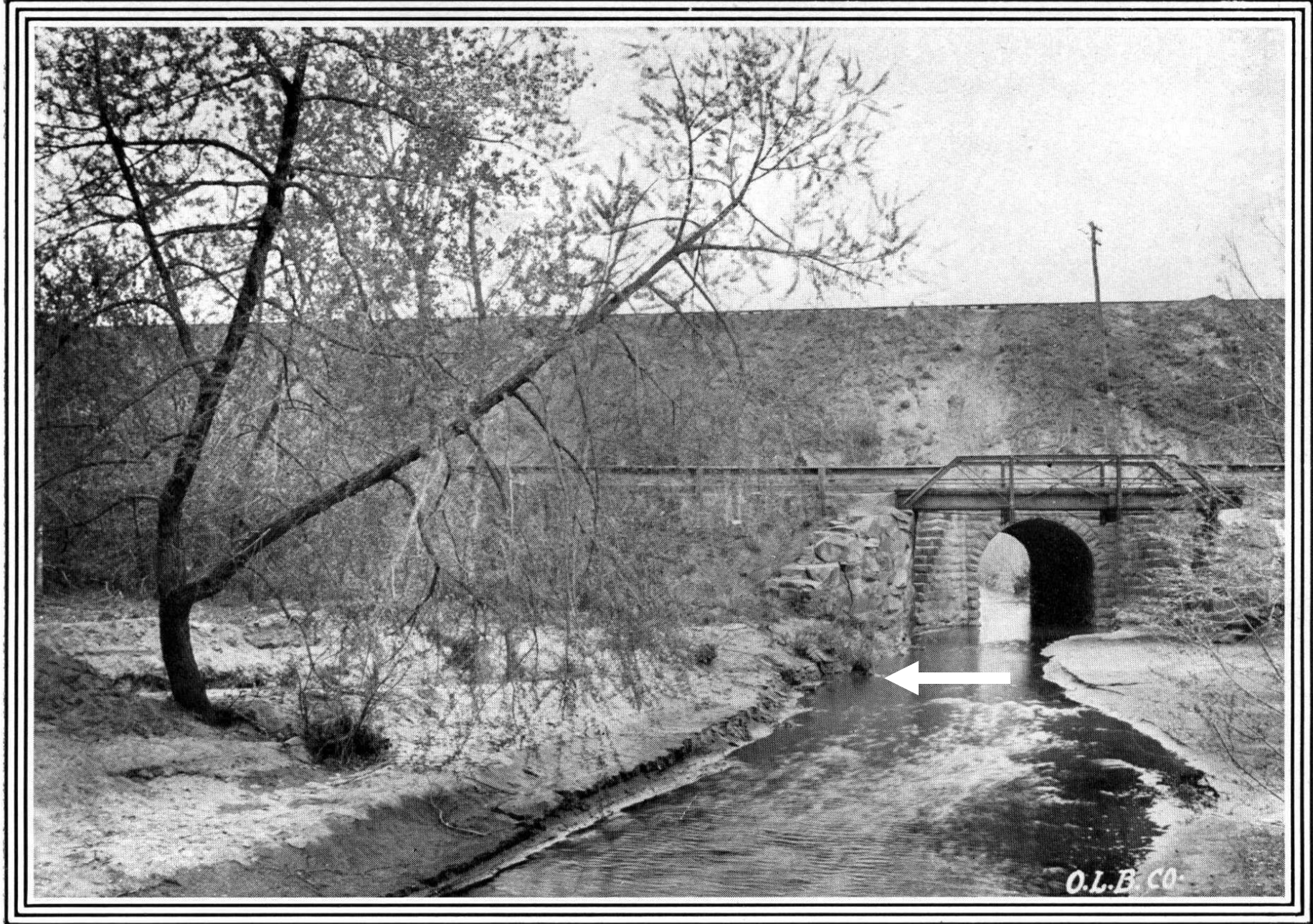
- Incentives for millers included tax exemptions, freedom from military service and special protection under the law.
- By 1800, there were mills on every creek having year-round flow.
- Millers became community leaders and their mills served as popular gathering places.

First drinking water supplies in Charlotte were hand dug wells.

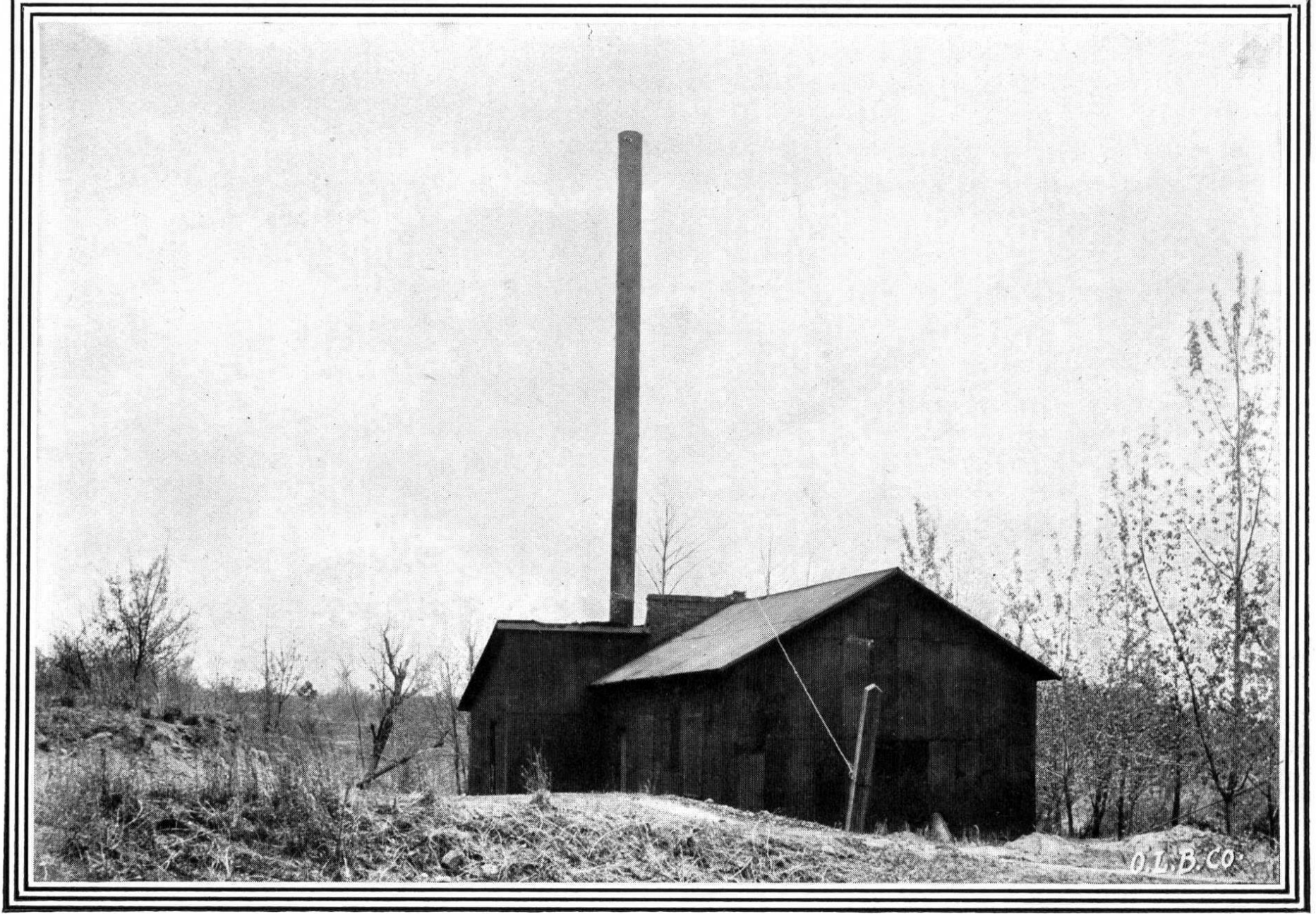


Independence Square in Charlotte in 1875 (intersection of Trade & Tryon). Cisterns had been built to store water in the City, one in each of the four wards.





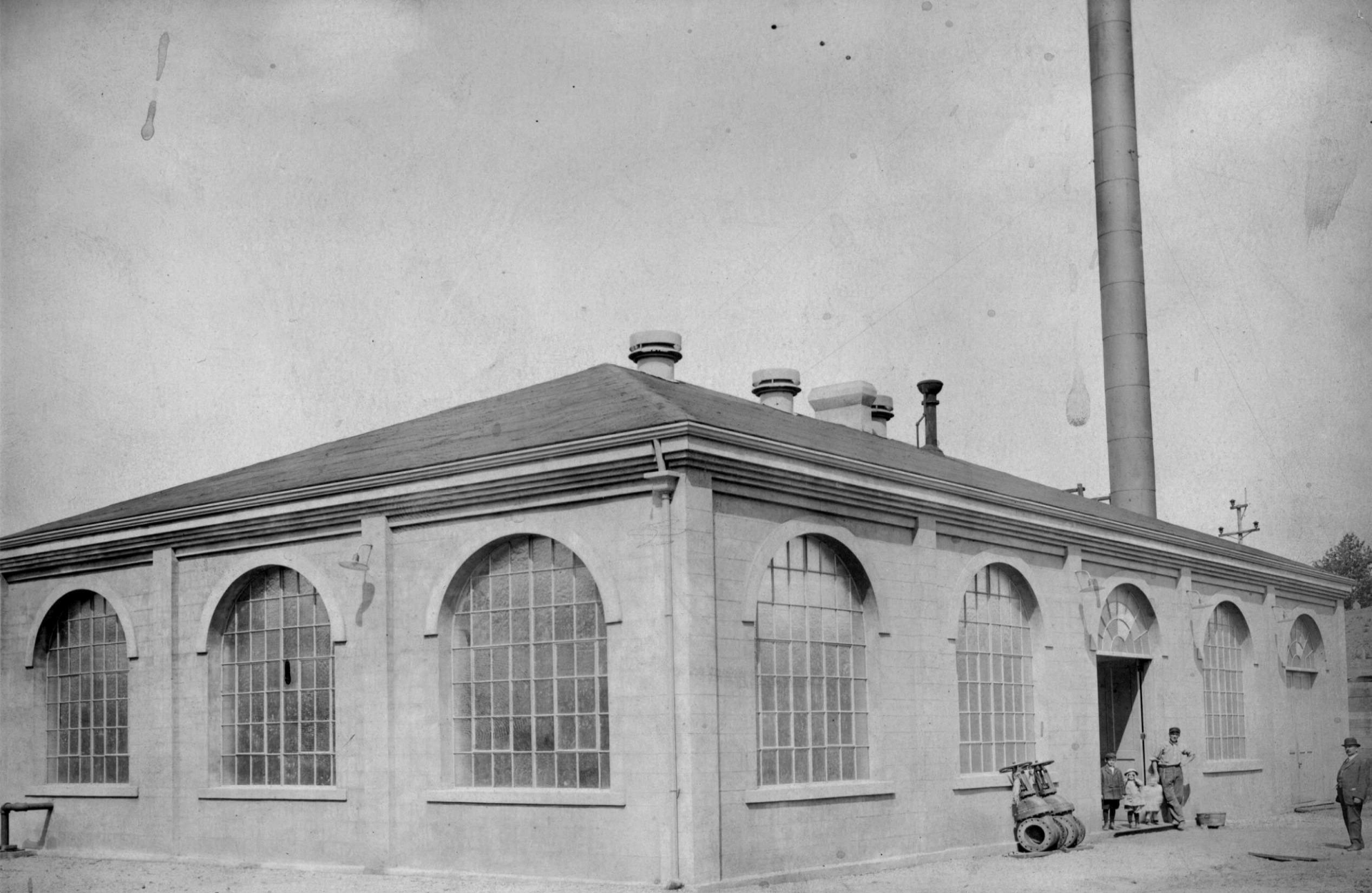
First municipal water system was built by a private company called the Charlotte Water Works Company in 1882 with the first water intake installed on Briar Creek.



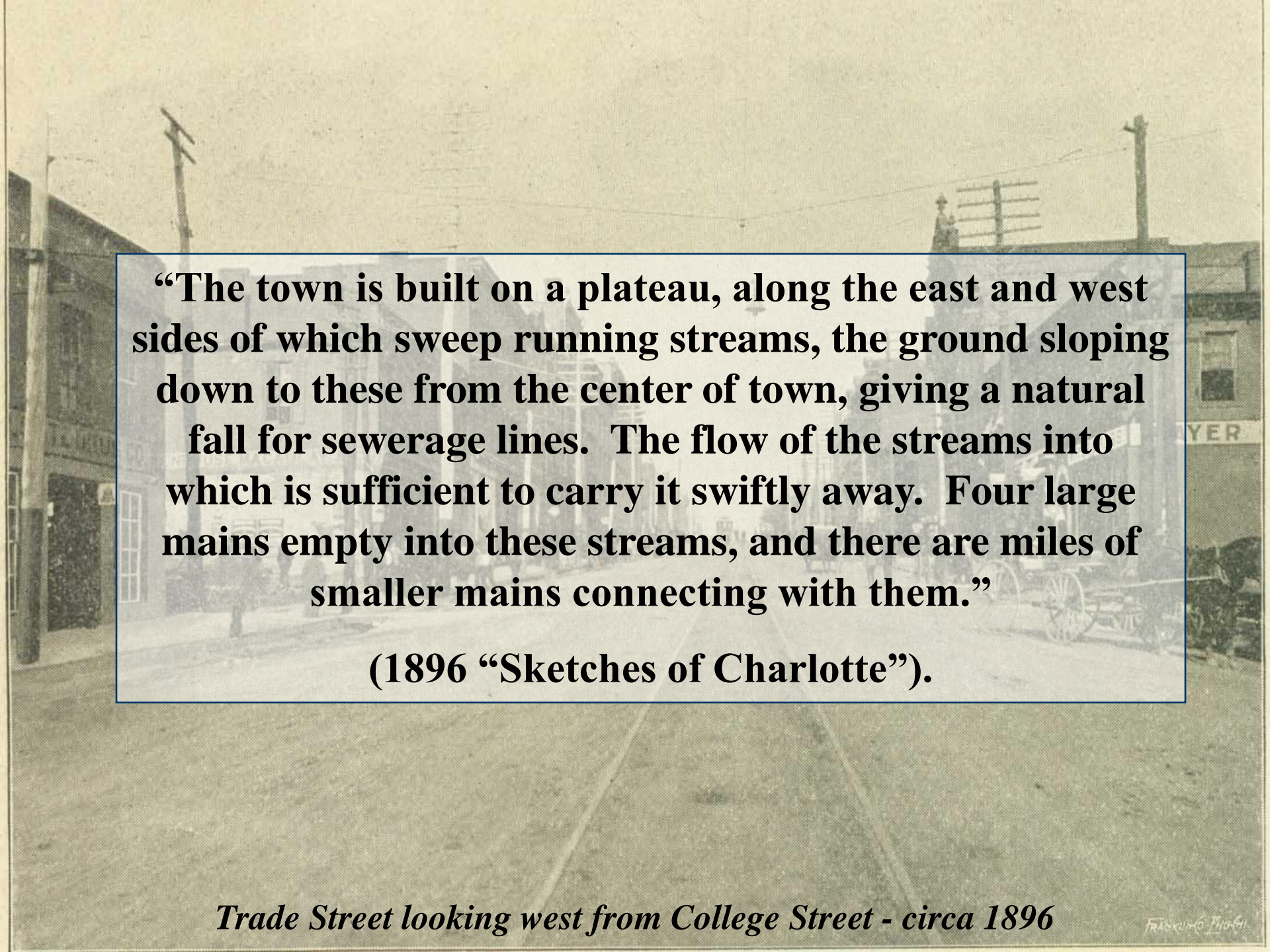
Briar Creek Pumping Station

200 block of North Tryon looking toward South Tryon near the square - circa 1910





Catawba River Pumping Station - 1912



“The town is built on a plateau, along the east and west sides of which sweep running streams, the ground sloping down to these from the center of town, giving a natural fall for sewerage lines. The flow of the streams into which is sufficient to carry it swiftly away. Four large mains empty into these streams, and there are miles of smaller mains connecting with them.”

(1896 “Sketches of Charlotte”).

Trade Street looking west from College Street - circa 1896

FRANKLIN PHOTO

Near the Downtown Square – circa 1960s



1960s - Sewage dominant in creeks - Odors terrible - Deodorants used



Charlotte News' Articles from September 1969

A Tip: Don't Go Near The Water

(Editor's note: Reporter Pat Stith spent six weeks investigating pollution in Little Sugar Creek. This is the first of his four reports.)

A Sewer Named Sugar

Lammers says that someone is going to have to clean it up.

The News identified three points where raw, domestic sewage is flowing into the

Law Loopholes Allow Pollution Leak

(Editor's Note: This is the second of four articles by Pat Stith on Little Sugar Creek and the extent of its pollution.)

A tributary of Irwin Creek, near W. Independence Blvd., is black with wastes from a heavy industry nearby. But,

Who Knows Who's Putting Pollutants Into Creek?

Pollution's Cheaper Than Cleaning Up

(Editor's note: This is the third of four articles on Little Sugar Creek's pollution problem.)

By PAT STITH
News Staff Writer

A Sewer Named Sugar

would be tied down for the next two years."

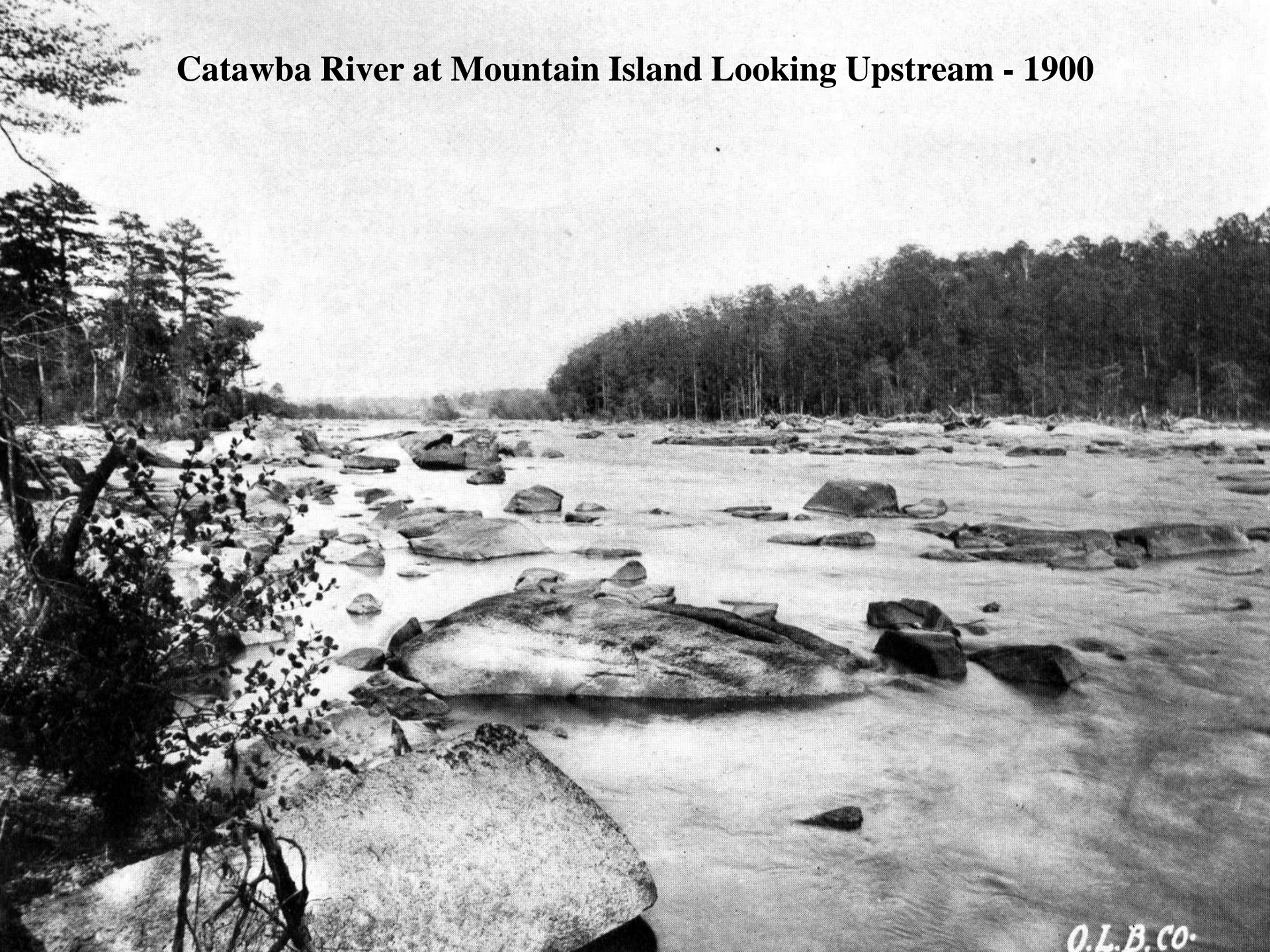
THE OTHER AGENCY responsible for pollution abatement, the State Board of

Who'll Get The Dirty Job Of Cleaning Little Sugar?

Will City, County

Local Water Quality Program Established

Catawba River at Mountain Island Looking Upstream - 1900



O.L.B. CO.

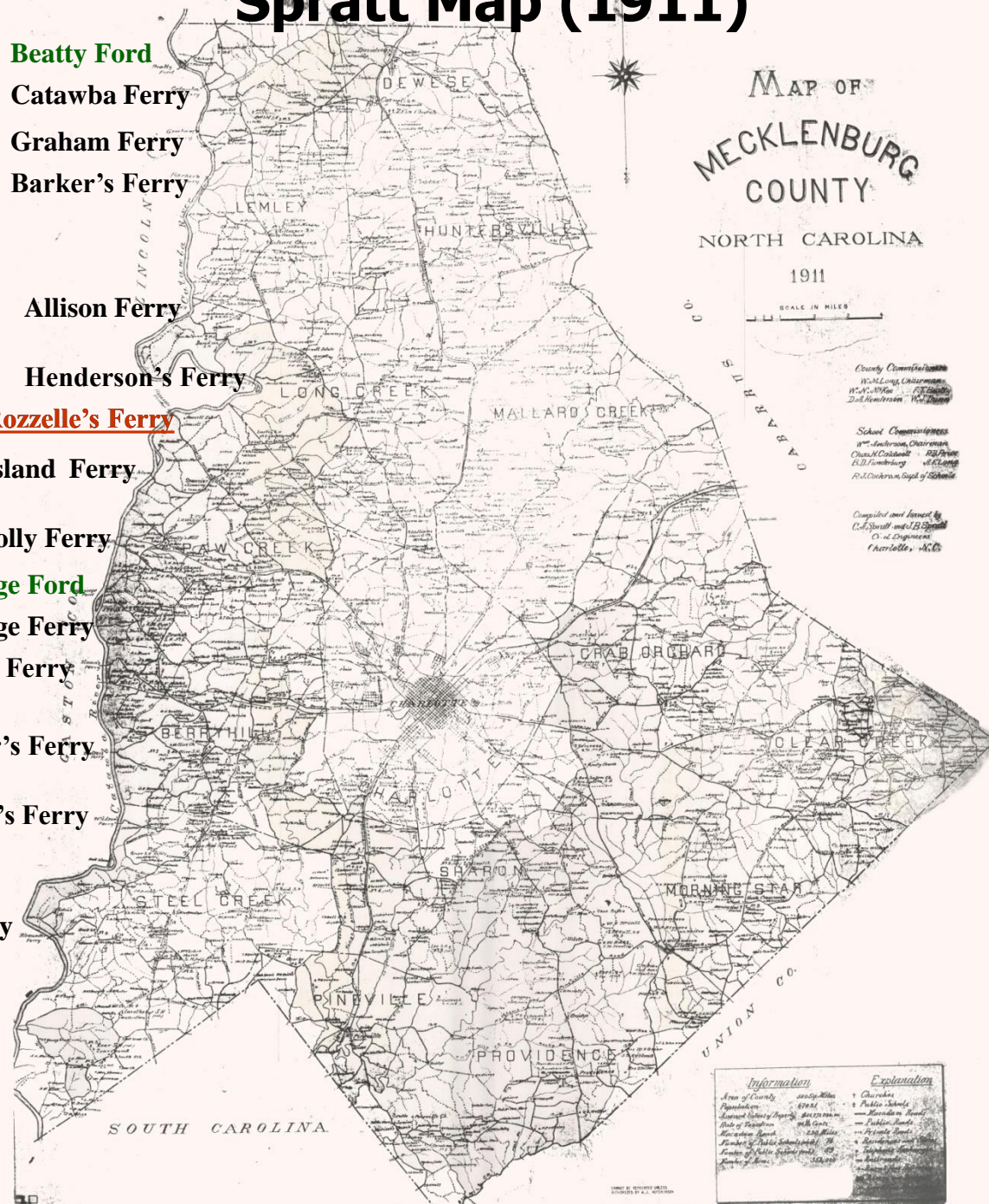
Cotton Crop along the Catawba

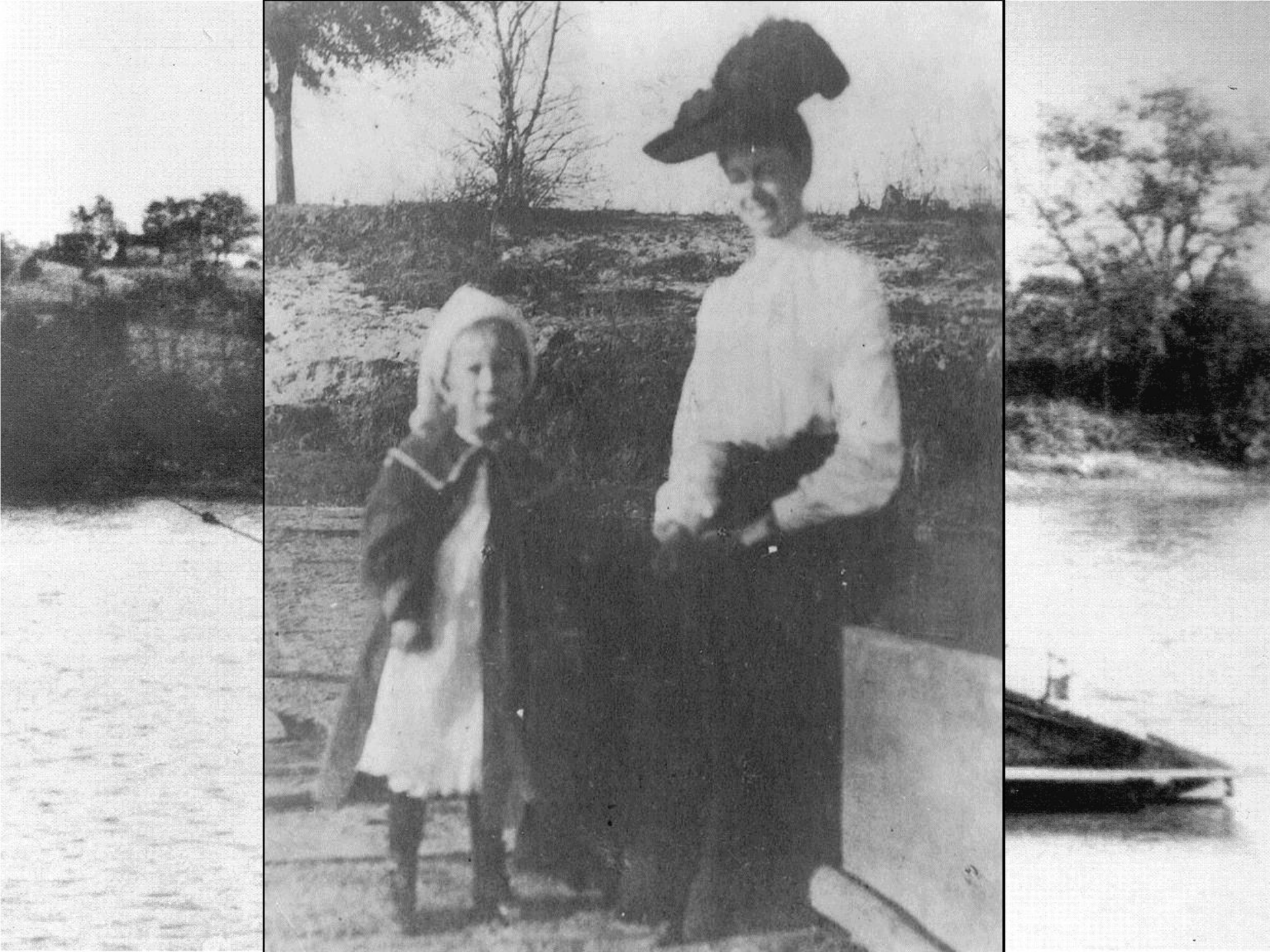


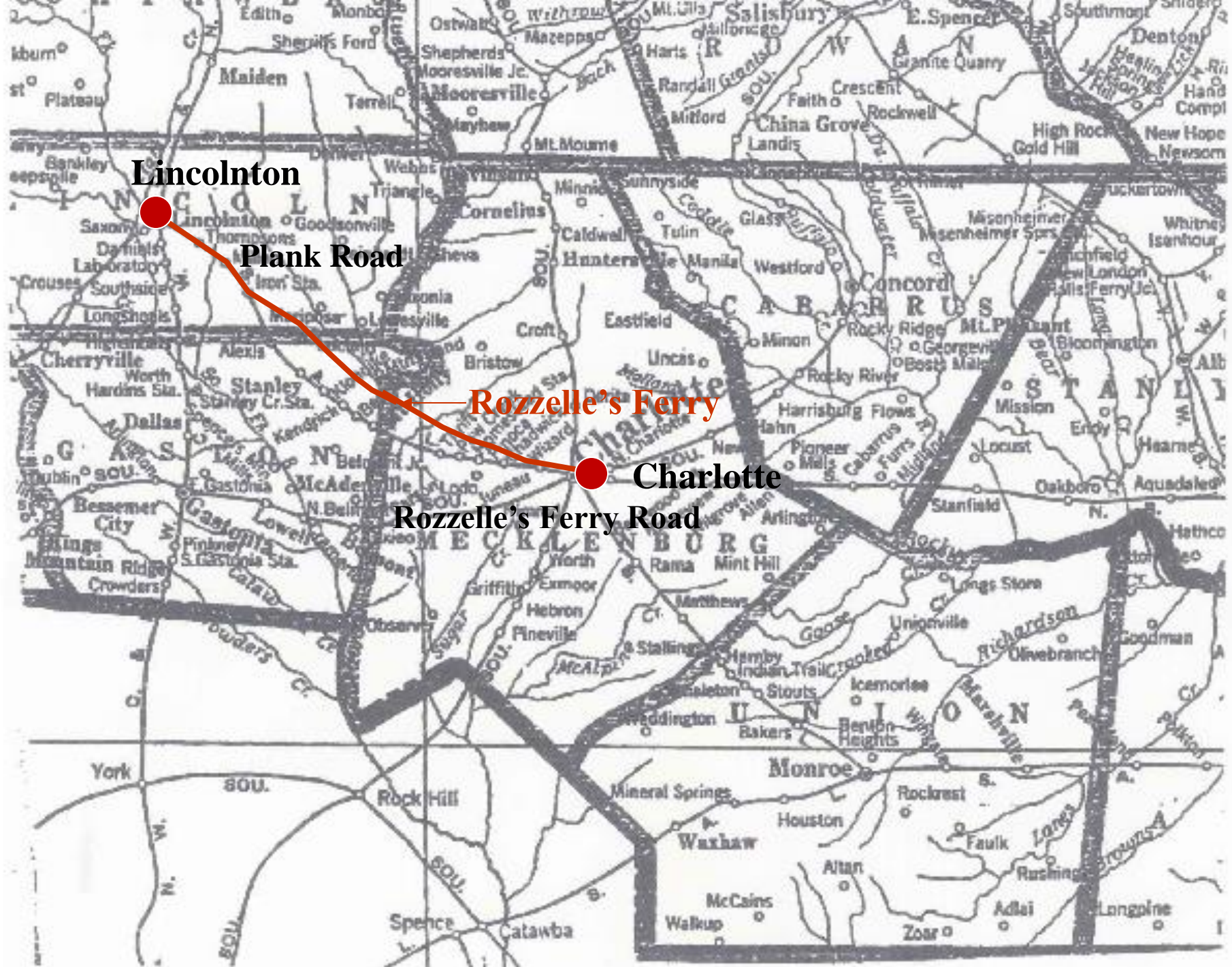


Flatboats were used on the Catawba to transport goods down river for sale. They could be up to 60 feet long and 7 feet wide. They were usually poled down the river.

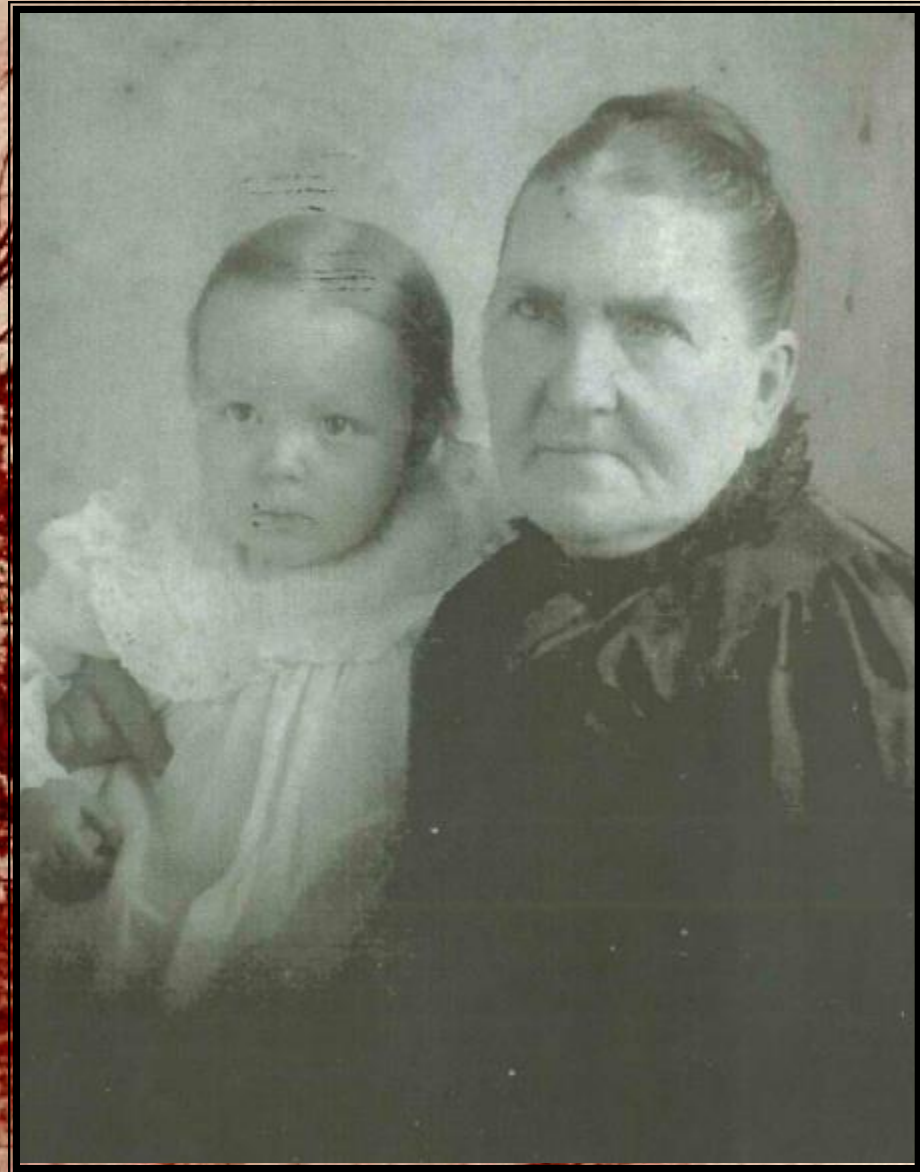
Alexander Ferry



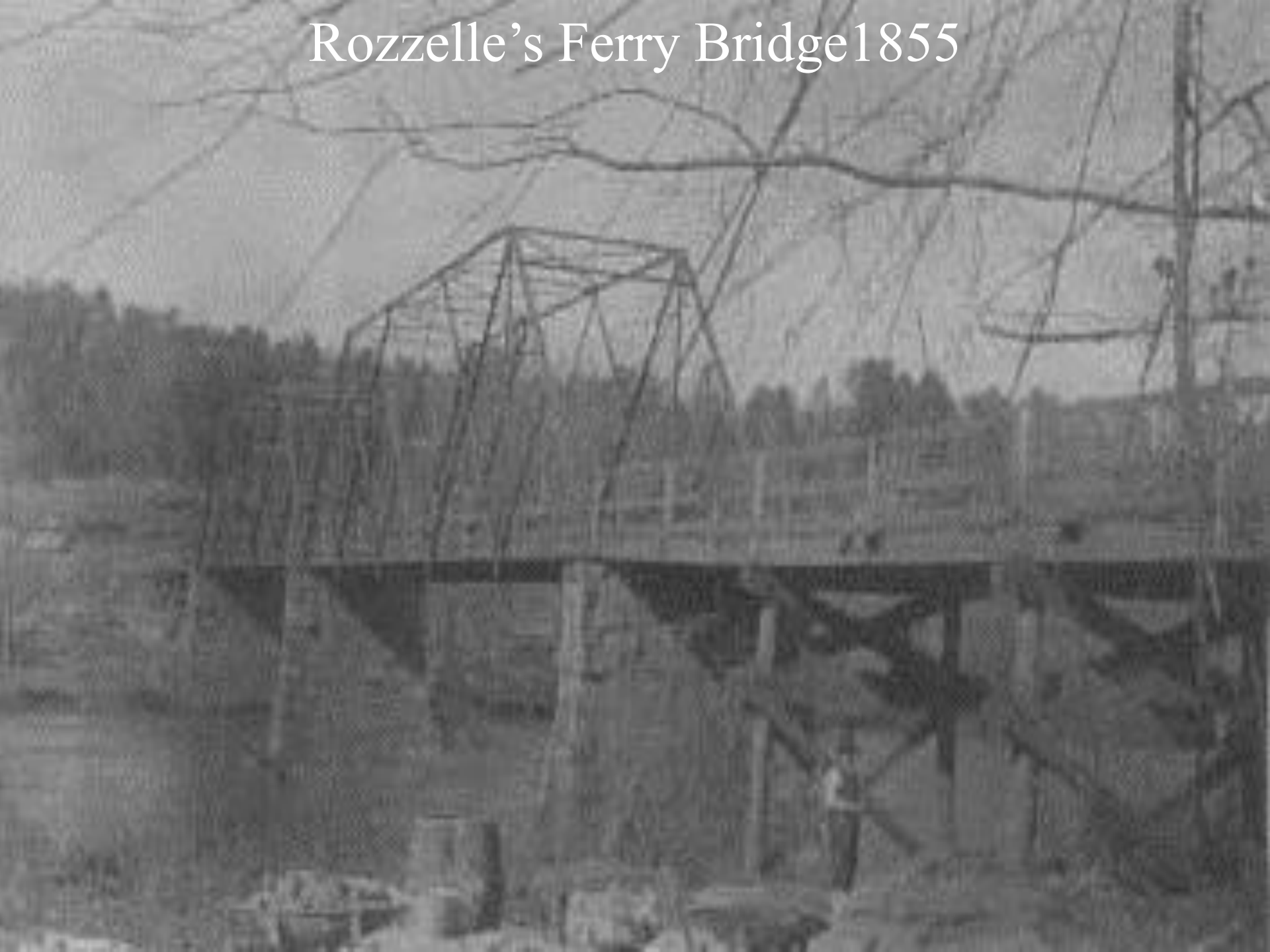




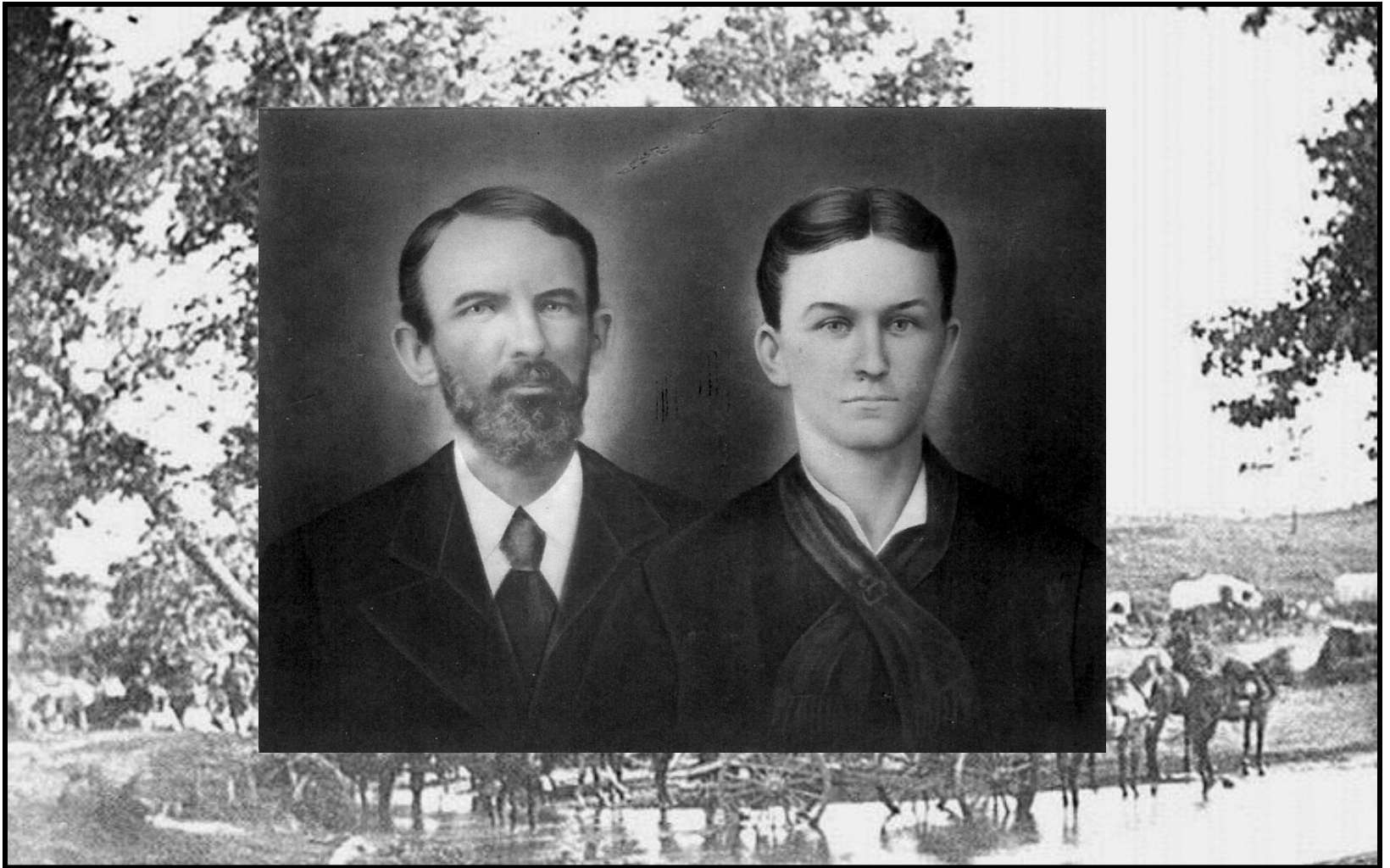
Rozzelle House - 1839



Rozzelle's Ferry Bridge 1855



Battle at Rozzelle's Ferry



April 1865

Rozzelle's Ferry Bridge





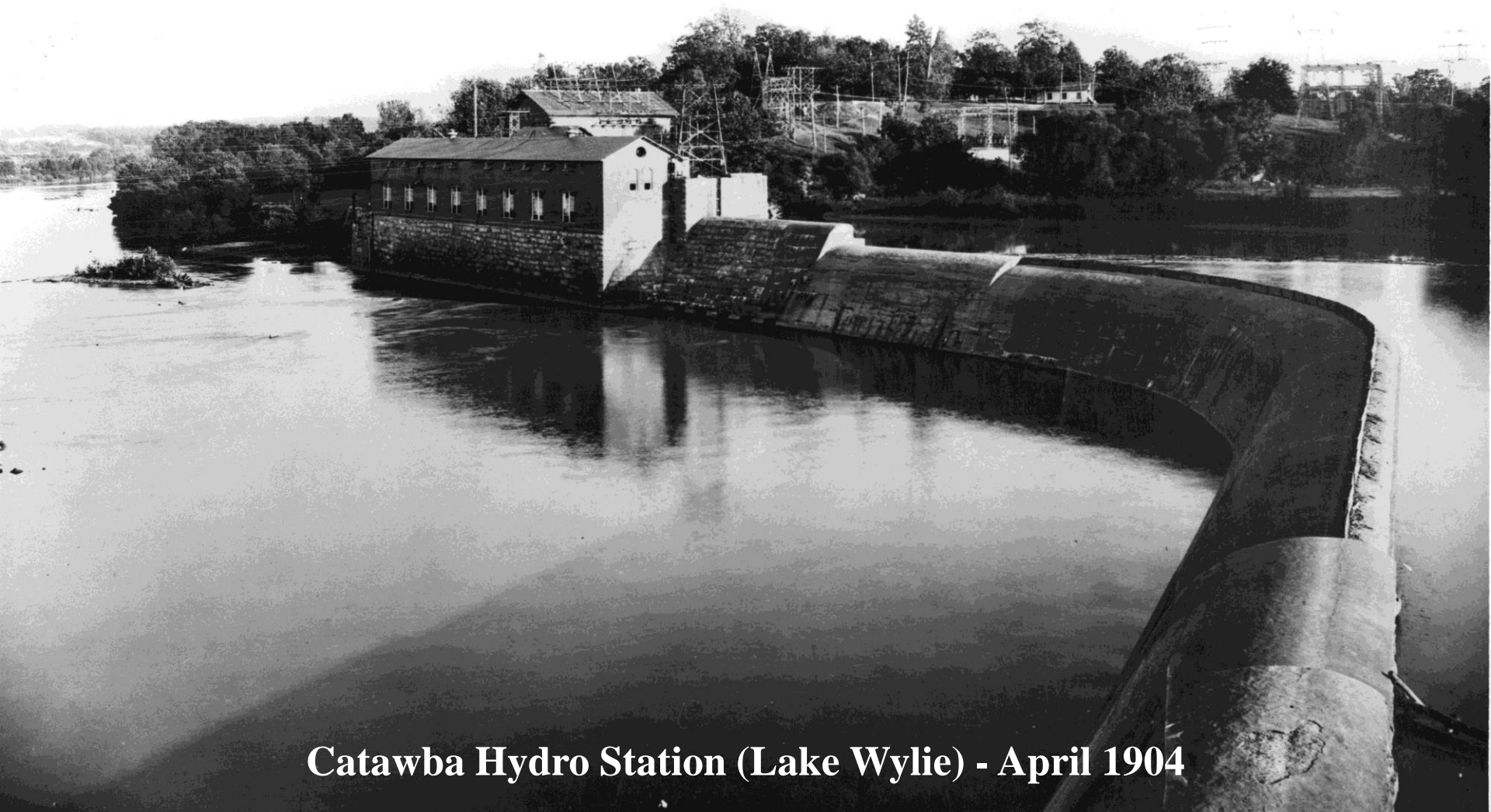
**Great Catawba River Flood – 2 hurricanes hit the N.C. mountains within a week –
The capping event – 22 inches of rain in 24 hours – July 16, 1916**

Rozzelle's Ferry Bridge - 1923



Rozzelle's Ferry Bridge - 2006





Catawba Hydro Station (Lake Wylie) - April 1904

Construction of Mountain Island Dam – September 12, 1923

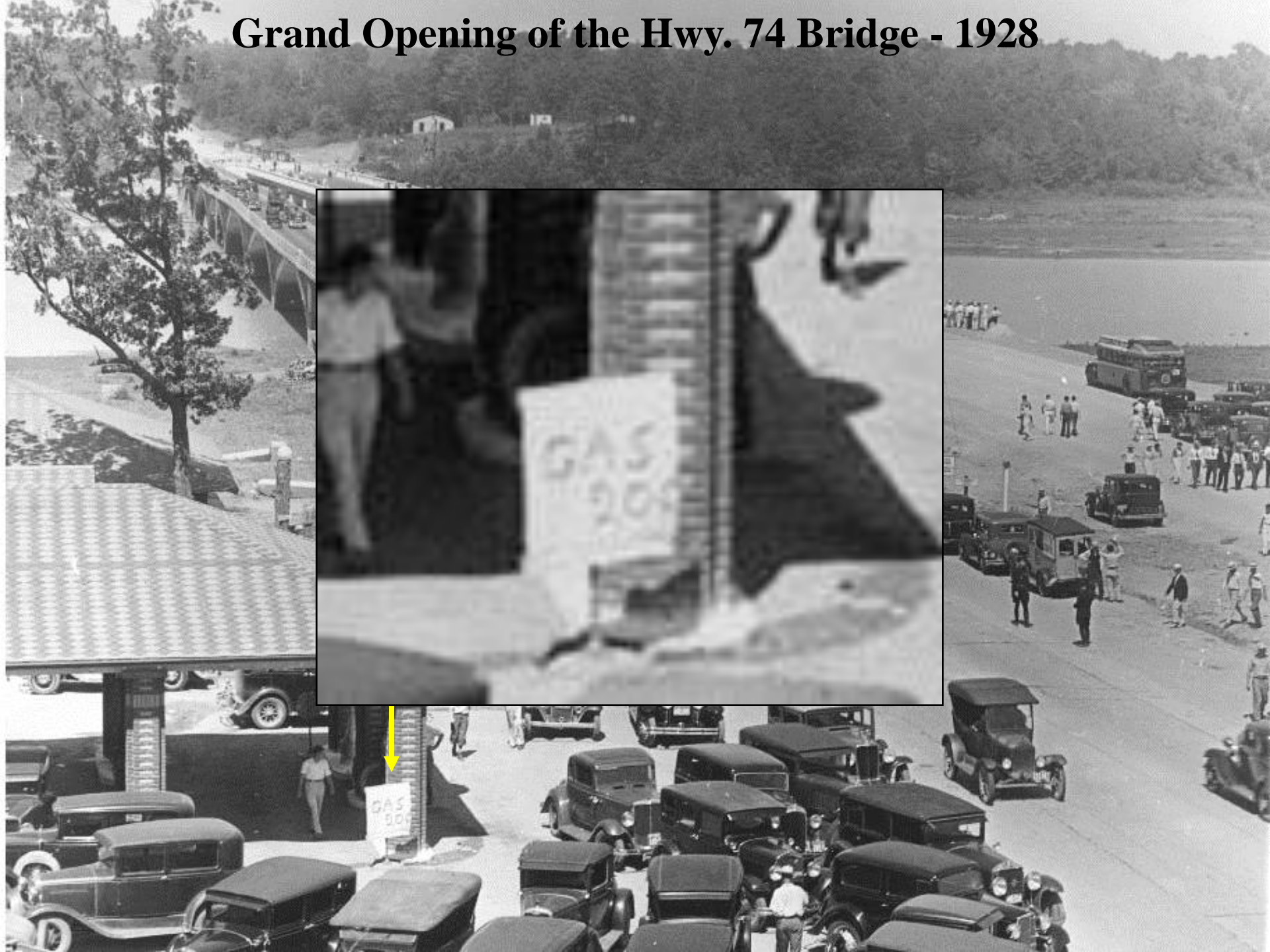


Mountain Island Lake - 1928



Southern Air Service.
Charlotte, N.C.

Grand Opening of the Hwy. 74 Bridge - 1928



Construction of Cowans Ford Dam – 1963



A photograph of a small, rocky stream flowing through a dense forest. The water is clear and shallow, cascading over several large, light-colored rocks. The surrounding trees are lush green, and the scene is bathed in bright sunlight, creating a vibrant and natural atmosphere.

**Our surface water resources have shaped our past,
sustain us in the present and will dictate our future.**

Long Creek in Western Mecklenburg County

Over the Past 40 Years in Mecklenburg County

- **Population has more than doubled.**
- **Water supply customers have doubled.**
- **Amount of developed land has tripled.**
- **Increased pollution sources.**



Charlotte Skyline 1973 (population = 354,656)



Charlotte Skyline 2013 (population = 919,628)

Threats to Water Quality



More People



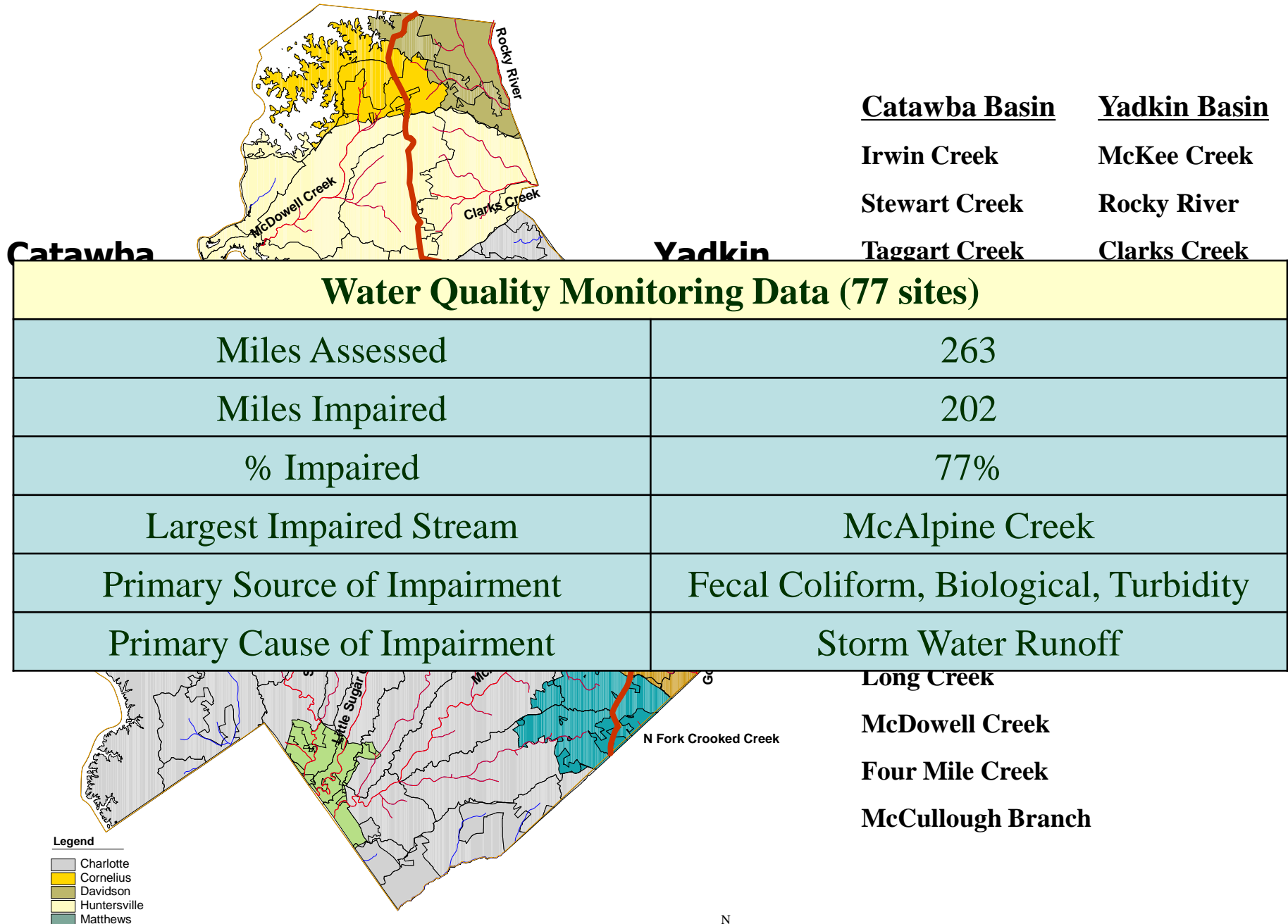
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More Pollution

Uses Lost



Impaired Surface Waters in Mecklenburg County



The communities we have developed can be sustained only if we learn to appreciate the value of our water resources and commit ourselves wholeheartedly to their protection.

Questions?

Lake James at the headwaters of the Catawba